



yellow bass

Morone mississippiensis

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Perciformes
Order:	Moronidae

Features

The yellow bass is a deep bodied fish that is flattened side to side. The dorsal is separated into a spiny and soft portion. It is yellow-olive to silvery yellow along the back and sides. The belly and pelvic fins are light yellow. There are six or seven dark stripes on the sides that are offset and appear broken. A spine is present on the gill cover. It rarely exceeds three-quarters of a pound. The state record fish weighed just over 1 1/2 pounds and was 14 1/2 inches long.

Natural History

The yellow bass lives in natural lakes, reservoirs, and backwaters of large rivers. Historically it has been found in several constructed lakes and reservoirs in southern Iowa. These probably originated from fish transported from the Mississippi. Adults eat insects, crustaceans, and fish, including their own young. Spawning occurs in May. Eggs are deposited over gravel. They sink slowly to the bottom and hatch in four to six days. The yellow bass lives in schools in

mid-water or near the surface. Few adults live past four or five years.

Habitats

constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; Mississippi River; interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

eastern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.